

Brookhaven Supervisor Romaine, Brookhaven LDC Announce Financing for Mather Hospital Expansion

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Farmingville, NY - Brookhaven Town Supervisor Edward P. Romaine and the Brookhaven Local Development Corp. announced the approval of \$24 million in tax-exempt financing for the expansion of JohnT. Mather Memorial Hospital in Port Jefferson. The bonds were approved on July 29.

Mather plans to add a partial third floor with 35 private rooms. The project would add more than 28,400 square feet to the hospital, and convert many double-bed rooms into single bed rooms. Single-bed rooms lead to lower infection rates, fewer medical errors, fewer privacy violations and reduced patient stress.

Although the hospital's total bed count will not change, the increased size of the facility is expected to lead to the creation of 111 new jobs. The project would be the first major expansion at the hospital in more than a decade.

Also included in the project are the renovation and a 3,600-square-foot expansion of the hospital's first and second floors to house offices and conference space to support a new residency program and funding for improvements to the hospital's heating, cooling, energy and information technology infrastructure and the purchase of new medical equipment

"In these challenging economic times, it's important that the Town of Brookhaven partner with not-for-profit organizations, such as Mather Hospital, to deliver important services and programs for the town's residents," said Supervisor Romaine. "The low-interest financing arranged by the LDC will truly help save significant dollars for the hospital while at the same time improving healthcare for our community and creating new jobs."

Frederick C. Braun III, chairman of the LDC, said, "This is an important project for Port Jefferson and all of Brookhaven Town and I am pleased that the LDC has been able to help."

"Mather Hospital appreciates the support and assistance provided by the Brookhaven Local Development Corp. These tax-exempt bonds are an important part of the financing for our expansion," said Joseph Wisnoski, senior vice president-finance of Mather. "A single-bed patient room is no longer a luxury, but the standard for hospitals across the nation."

Mather, a 248-bed acute care non-profit community hospital employs more than 2,500, treats more than 12,000 inpatients and handles more than 43,000 emergency room cases annually. It is part of the Long Island Health Network and the Mather-St. Charles Health Alliance. The Brookhaven LDC, a local development corporation, was created in 2010 to provide assistance for the not-for-profit sector previously supplied by the Brookhaven Industrial Development Agency. It facilitates financing for not-for-profit organizations such as colleges, hospitals, libraries, and those organizations serving people who are physically, developmentally or mentally disabled. New York State regulations that allowed IDAs to fund such projects expired in 2008. There is no out-of-pocket expense for Brookhaven LDC.

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